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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DGS AWARDS MOTORCYCLE CONTRACT TO BMW

SACRAMENTO -- The California Highway Patrol today announced the contract award for 150 to 200 enforcement motorcycles to BMW of North America, Inc.

The one-year contract, awarded by the state Department of General Services, includes a guaranteed buyback provision, eliminating the administrative burden of selling or otherwise disposing of the motorcycles at the end of their three-year or 60,000-mile service with the CHP.

"BMW had the lowest overall price and some performance and safety features that exceeded our specifications," said CHP Commissioner D.O. Helmick. "The bid gives us an exceptional value."

The buyback provision made BMW the low bidder over competitors Harley-Davidson and Kawasaki. The competitively-bid BMW contract offers the model R1100RT-P at a net price of $5,900, compared to a net price of $5,996 for the Harley-Davidson and $6,000 for the Kawasaki.

Each of the competing models met performance specifications. The BMW models exceeded the specifications by coming equipped with anti-lock brakes, which protect officers from injury by reducing the likelihood of skids, Helmick said.

The buyback provision was included by DGS in the motorcycle bid process for the first time in the current contract. It saves the CHP time and administrative costs that would otherwise be spent in marketing the used vehicles to the public.

The BMWs also feature a drive shaft with ring and pinion rather than a chain or belt drive, an electronically adjustable windshield and a thermostatically controlled oil cooler with an auxiliary fan.

The CHP currently has five Harleys, seven BMWs and 419 Kawasakis in its field fleet. BMW and Kawasaki also are the subjects of a separate, ongoing four-year test by the CHP to determine the life-cycle cost of motorcycles that meet its specifications. The study has another two years to run.